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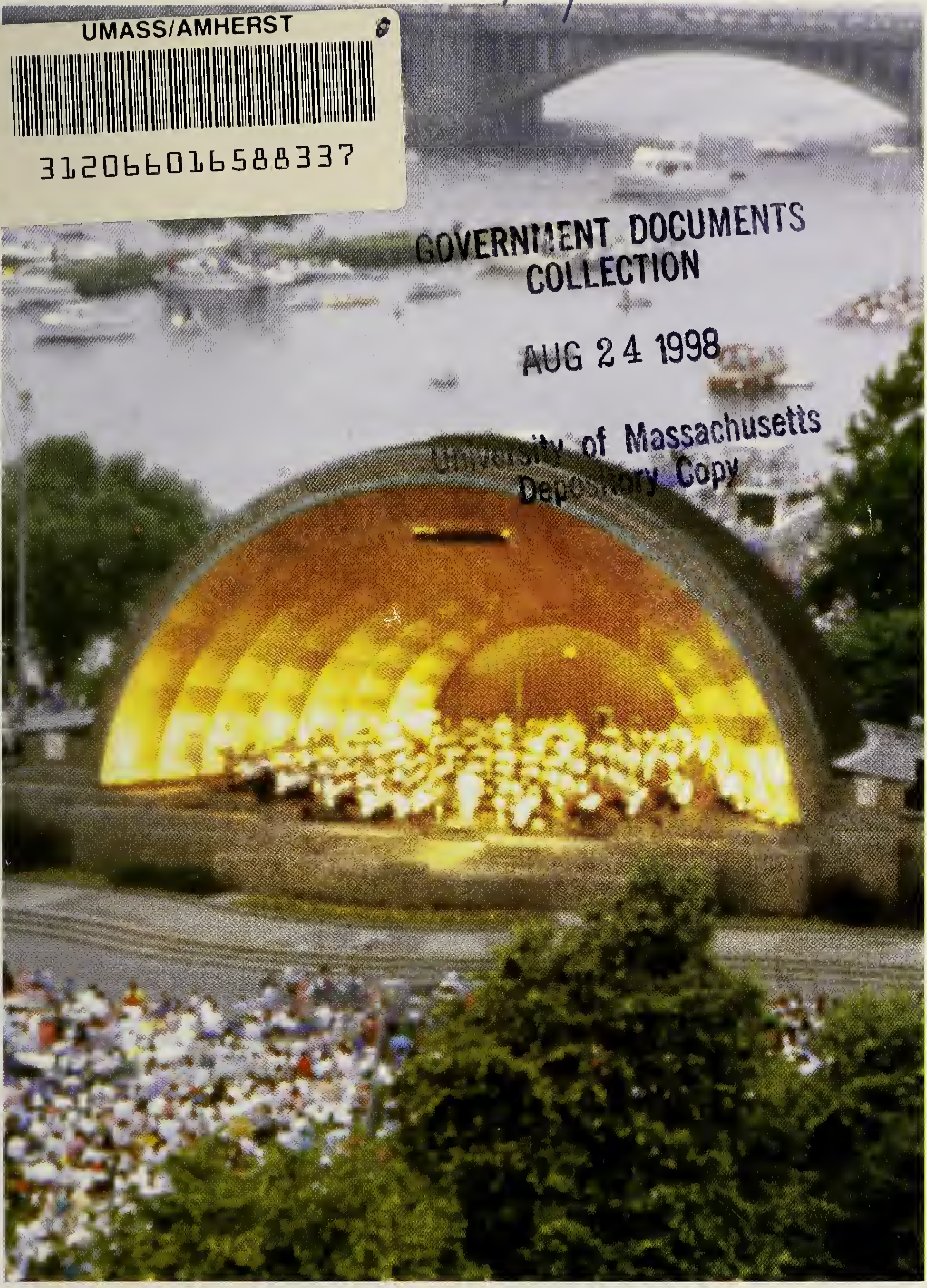


Metropolitan District Commission

FACILITY GUIDE

A Message from the Governor

Welcome to the Metropolitan Park System and the Metropolitan watershed lands. Managed by the Metropolitan District Commission, these extraordinary properties protect land and water, and preserve our natural and cultural resource legacy while providing unparalleled opportunities for recreational use and enjoyment. Thousands of children every year learn to skate and swim at MDC rinks and pools where they develop lifetime skills. Thousands more ski, golf, bike and learn the values of sportsmanship and self confidence. The protection of our Watershed properties assures the clean, safe drinking water essential to our homes and businesses.

The Metropolitan Park System was the first in the nation and has served as model for open space and resource protection for over 100 years. Use, enjoy and care for these irreplaceable lands so that we may leave them for future generations as they were left to us.

Commissioner David B. Balfour, Jr. and Governor Paul Cellucci

A Message from the Commissioner

Welcome to the Metropolitan Park system and the MDC's vast network of recreational facilities. For the nearly three million citizens who live in greater Boston, and the thousands more who visit every year, the Metropolitan District Commission is a vibrant multi-shaded mosaic. It's an unforgettable starlit concert at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade, it's sundrenched beaches and islands in a sparkling Boston Harbor, it's our first class recreational facilities from rinks to pools to ballfields, and it is also mile upon mile of secluded park and woodland to hike and relax in. We work very hard to maintain these facilities, we're confident you will enjoy them, and we hope you spread the word about the sprawling gem around metropolitan Boston that is the Metropolitan District Commission.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Metropolitan District Commission
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Governor Trudy Coxe, EOEA Secretary David B. Balfour, Jr., Commissioner

Designed by Carol Arsenault
Photos by Jack Maley, Tracy Aiguier, Leila Simon and Tony Loretti

Table of Contents

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Athletic Fields 5
Bandstands 6
Beaches 7
Bicycle Paths 8
Boating 8
Camping 9
Canoeing 9
Community Gardens 9
Fishing 10
Foot Paths/Trails 11
Golf Courses 11
Museums/Historic Sites 12
Observation Towers 12
Playgrounds 13
Running Paths 14
Sailing/Rowing 14
Skating Rinks 15
Ski Trails 16
Swimming Pools 17
Spray Pools 17
Tennis Courts 18
Thompson Center 18

METROPOLITAN PARKS SYSTEM MAP 19-20

RESERVATIONS AND HISTORIC SITES

Woodland Reservations

Beaver Brook 22
Blue Hills 23
Breakheart 24
Hammond Pond 24
Middlesex Fells 25
Quincy Quarries 26
Stony Brook 26
Triphammer Woods 26

River Reservations

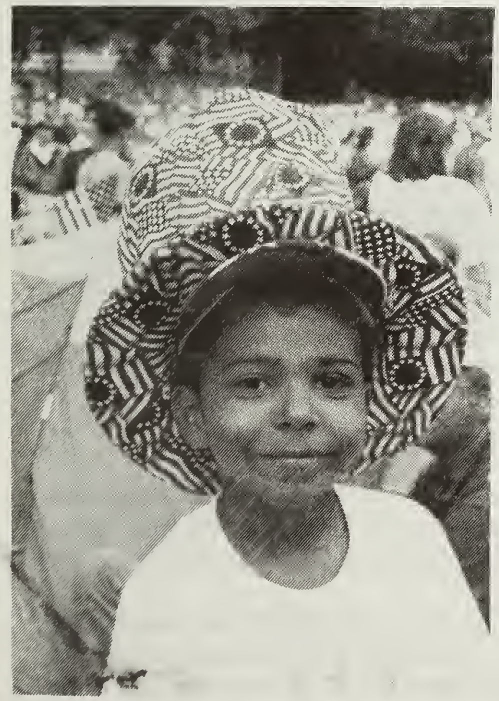
Charles River 27-28
Mystic River 29
Neponset River 30

Coastal Reservations

Belle Isle Marsh 31
Boston Harbor Islands 32-33
Castle Island 33
Fort Revere 33
Lightship "Nantucket I" 34
Nahant Beach/Lynn Shore 34
Nantasket Beach 35
Revere Beach 35
Rumney Marsh 35
Stodder's Neck 36
Wollaston Beach 36

WATERSHED REGION

Wachusett Reservoir 37
Sudbury Reservoir 37
Quabbin Reservoir 38



www.state.ma.us/mdc

Visit the MDC on the Internet to learn more about the history of the agency, upcoming events and facility updates.

Cover: MDC Hatch Memorial Shell
Left: Everyone gets into the spirit of July 4th at the Hatch Shell.

The Agency's History

Today's metropolitan parks system resulted from the planning theories of America's first generation of landscape architects, including Robert Morris Copeland, H.W.S. Cleveland and Frederick Law Olmsted. The principal founders of the system were Charles Eliot, the son of a Harvard University president, and Sylvester Baxter, a Malden journalist with an interest in European urban planning.

Their vision helped form an agency that could transcend town boundaries and jurisdictions in order to preserve as public open space "the rock hills, the stream banks, and the bay and sea shores" of the region.

The Metropolitan Park System of 100 years ago was the first regional urban park system of its kind. Today, it is still used as a model of urban open space planning by many cities throughout the world. This system that began with 7,000 acres of Boston's most scenic terrain, has grown to almost 20,000 acres or 30 square miles. It is a legacy which we must protect and preserve for generations to come.

Charles Eliot 1859-1897

Today's MDC

The Metropolitan District Commission is a unique multi-service agency responsible for the management of the 19,000-acre metropolitan parks system. This renowned park system encompasses Boston's most scenic and historic sites, including the Charles River Esplanade and the Blue Hills Reservation, and provides the public with unparalleled recreational opportunities.

A seven-hundred lane mile network of landscaped parkways and bridges link MDC reservations in an open-space system. Visitors to the MDC system may enjoy many amenities, including:

* 18 saltwater beaches
* 3 freshwater beaches
* 23 skating rinks
* 25 tennis courts
* 19 swimming pools
* 27 athletic fields
* 6 bicycle/jogging paths
* 51 playgrounds
* 7 historic sites and museums
* 7 woodland reservations
* 2 environmental education centers
* 3 river reservations
* 9 coastal reservations
* 2 golf courses
* 1 alpine ski area
* numerous venues for camping, bike riding, sailing, rowing, canoeing, exploring hiking, fishing, skiing and concerts

In addition, the MDC manages a 120,000-acre watershed and reservoir system that provides pure drinking water to 2.5 million people. Not only do the watershed lands protect the water supply, they provide habitats for rare and endangered species and are the only areas of extensive wilderness in Massachusetts.

For more than one hundred years, the Metropolitan District Commission has preserved this region's unique landscapes by acquiring and protecting park lands, river corridors and coastal areas; reclaiming and restoring abused and neglected sites; and maintaining areas of scenic beauty for the recreation and health of residents and visitors who enjoy access to this great park system.

Recreational Facilities & Programs

The Metropolitan District Commission offers a wide variety of activities for all ages, all year long! Thirty-four cities and towns are included in the MDC recreation network. For information about a facility near you, contact the appropriate district office:

Charles District: (617) 727-4708
Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Brighton, Cambridge, Charlestown, North End, Somerville, Watertown, Wellesley and Weston

Mystic District: (617) 727-4708
Chelsea, East Boston, Everett, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Nahant, Revere, Saugus, Stoneham, Winthrop, Winchester and Wakefield

Harbor District: (617) 727-6034 or 727-8865
Dorchester, Hull, Mattapan, Quincy, Roxbury, South Boston, and Weymouth

Neponset District: (617) 727-6034
Canton, Cleveland Circle, Dedham, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Milton, Randolph and West Roxbury

Southwest Corridor Park (617) 727-0057
Boston, Back Bay, the South End, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and Hyde Park

♿ HANDICAPPED FACILITIES & PROGRAMS (617) 727-9547

The MDC Weymouth and Melrose Pools are equipped with a hydraulic chair lift assuring accessibility for the handicapped. Overnight fishing trips to George's Island were launched last year and the MDC is working with the Boston Blades Sledge Hockey Team at several rinks. Rowing and sailing programs have been initiated on the Charles River for the physically challenged, and a "sit-ski" program has been introduced at the MDC Leo J. Martin Golf Course in Weston.

PERMIT INFORMATION

Permits are required for group use of MDC sites for picnics (groups of 25 or more), athletic field use and special use such as road races, filming and parades. There is a permit fee.
ALCOHOL IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON ALL MDC PROPERTY

Obtaining a Permit

For a picnic permit or recreational facility permit, contact the Recreation Office at
(617) 727-9547 x450 for an application.

The permit application must be submitted at least six to eight weeks in advance. Alcohol, marking light poles, trees, barrels and sidewalks; open fires; and soliciting money (i.e. entry fees) are **strictly prohibited** on MDC property. In addition to permit fees, users pay for MDC staffing if necessary. Fees are to be paid by check or money order to The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Athletic Fields

Season: mid-April to mid-November
Lighted fields seven days per week from 8:00am to 11:00pm
Non-lighted fields seven days per week from 8:00am to 8:00pm
FEES: Fees will be assessed to all groups using any type of athletic field or facility except municipally sponsored groups and youth groups, who pay 50% of the fee (i.e., Little League, Babe Ruth, CYO, Junior and Senior High Schools). Permits are required for all field use unless otherwise noted. **Please call MDC Recreation Office at (617) 727-9547 x450 for permits and fees.**

Charles District

Boston - Leiderman Field, Charles Street, West End (baseball, football, softball)
Belmont/Waltham - Waverly Oaks, Trapelo Road (softball, basketball, no permit required)
Brighton - Daly Recreation Center, Nonantum Road (football, softball, rugby, lighted)
Cambridge - Magazine Beach Field, Memorial Drive (football, softball)
Somerville - Foss Park, McGrath-O'Brien Highway (baseball, basketball, football, soccer)
Somerville - Dilboy Field, Alewife Brook Parkway (baseball, basketball, football, soccer)

Mystic District

East Boston - Constitution Beach, Orient Heights (softball, handball, basketball, lighted)
Everett - Allied Veterans Recreation Center, Elm Street
Medford - Hormel Stadium, Veterans Memorial Parkway (baseball, football, track, rugby, soccer)
Nahant - Meehan Little League Field, O'Connor Field (basketball, handball, tennis)
Somerville - Draw Seven Park, Foley Street (soccer)
Revere - Sullivan Little League Field

Many home runs are hit at the MDC's 27 athletic fields

Athletic Fields

Harbor District
Dorchester - McMorrow Playground, Victory Road (baseball, softball, basketball)
Dorchester - Toohig Playground, Gallivan Boulevard (baseball, softball, basketball)
Dorchester - Leahy Recreational Area, Morrissey Boulevard (basketball)
South Boston - Evans Field, Day Boulevard (football, baseball, softball)
Quincy - Shea Little League Field, Willard Street (baseball, street hockey)

Neponset District
Dorchester (Lower Mills) - VFW Playground, Ventura Street (baseball, basketball)
Hyde Park - Kelly Field, Turtle Pond Parkway (baseball, softball, football, soccer, lighted)
Hyde Park - Colella Playground, Readville Street (basketball, baseball)
Hyde Park - Connell Field, Enneking Parkway (softball, soccer)
Hyde Park - Gelewitz Field, Turtle Pond Parkway (baseball, softball, lighted)
Hyde Park - Moynihan Field, Truman Highway (baseball, basketball, lighted)
Hyde Park - Camp Meigs Playground, Stanbro Street (baseball, softball, basketball)
Jamaica Plain - Southwest Corridor Park, Lamartine Street (baseball)
Mattapan - Ryan Field, River Street (softball, tennis, basketball)
Milton - Houghton's Pond Recreation Area (softball)

Bandstands and Music Shells

Free outdoor concerts featuring a wide variety of music and dance performances are available during the summer months.

Concert Series Schedules
Complete schedules of the concert series are available by sending a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to the MDC Recreation Division, 20 Somerset St., Boston, MA 02108. Please indicate bandstand location. For Hatch Shell updates, call (617) 727-5114 x555.

♿ **Boston** - Hatch Memorial Shell, Storrow Drive (handicap access and seating area)
Hyde Park - Kelly Field, Stony Brook Reservation
Hyde Park - Martini Shell, Truman Parkway
Brighton - Publick Theatre, Christian A. Herter Park, Soldiers Field Road
Chelsea - Mary O'Malley Park, Commandant's Way
East Boston - Constitution Beach, Orient Heights Bathhouse
Hull - Bernie King Pavilion, Nantasket Beach
Jamaica Plain - Stony Brook Deck, Southwest Corridor Park
Lynn - Red Rock, Lynn Shore Drive
Medford - Msgr. John B. Condon Shell, Mystic Valley Parkway
Milton - Houghton's Pond Bandstand, Hillside St., Blue Hills Reservation
Revere - Revere Beach Bandstand, Revere Beach Boulevard
Roxbury - Mission Hill Deck, Southwest Corridor Park
South Boston - Marine Park Bandstand, Day Boulevard

Beaches

Beaches are open, with lifeguards on duty, from late June to early September.

Fresh Water Beaches
Milton - Houghton's Pond: Blue Hills Reservation, Hillside St. off Rts. 128 & 138
Saugus - John A. W. Pearce Lake: Breakheart Reservation, Forest St. off Lynn Fells Pkwy.
Winchester - Sandy Beach, Upper Mystic Lake off Mystic Valley Pkwy.

Salt Water Beaches
Boston - Lovells Island, Boston Harbor
Dorchester - Malibu Beach, Morrissey Boulevard
Dorchester - Savin Hill Beach, Morrissey Boulevard
Dorchester - Tenean Beach, Tenean St. off Morrissey Boulevard
East Boston - Constitution Beach, Orient Heights
♿ **Hull** - Nantasket Beach, Nantasket Avenue
Lynn - King's Beach, Lynn Shore Drive
Lynn - Lynn Beach, Lynn Shore Drive
Nahant - Nahant Beach, Nahant Causeway
Quincy - Wollaston Beach, Quincy Shore Drive
♿ **Revere** - Revere Beach, Revere Beach Boulevard
♿ **Revere** - Short Beach, Winthrop Parkway
♿ **South Boston** - Carson Beach, Day Boulevard
♿ **South Boston** - Castle Island, Day Boulevard
South Boston - City Point
South Boston - M Street Beach, Day Boulevard
South Boston - Pleasure Bay, Day Boulevard
♿ **Winthrop** - Winthrop Beach, Winthrop Shore Drive

Revere Beach celebrated its centennial as America's first public beach in July 1996.

Bicycle Paths

Dr. Paul Dudley White Charles River Bike Path Boston, Cambridge, Newton, Watertown. Approximately 18-mile multi-purpose path which extends from Science Park to Bridge Street in Watertown.

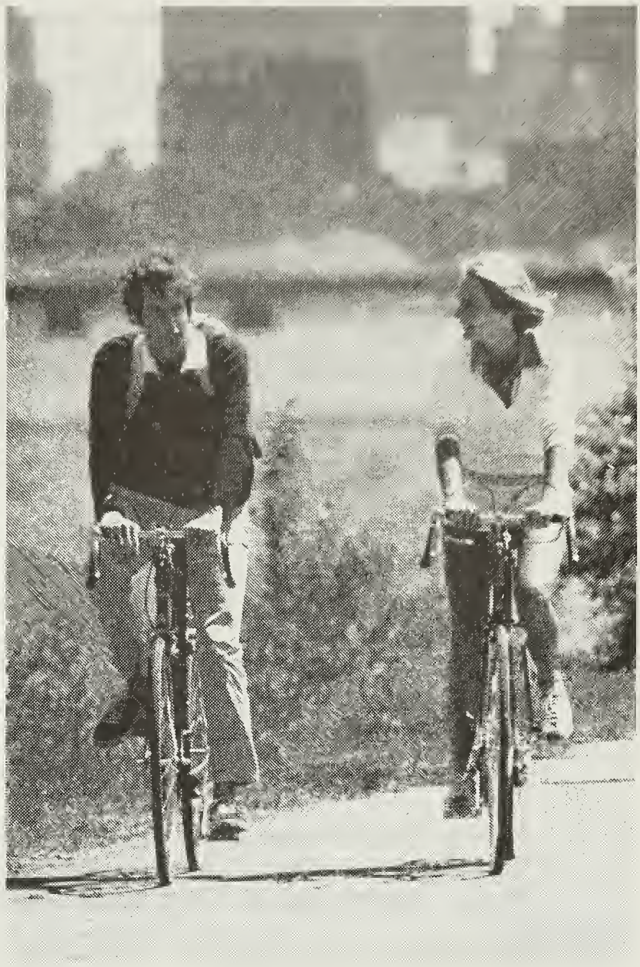
Stony Brook Reservation Bike Path
Turtle Pond Parkway, West Roxbury, Hyde Park. From the Forest Hills train station, take Washington St. for 3 miles toward Dedham, turn left onto Turtle Pond Parkway.

Mystic River Reservation Bike Path
Somerville and Everett, 3.5-mile loop from the Wellington Bridge in Somerville along the Mystic River and beyond the Wellington Bridge in Everett.

Pierre Lallement Bike Path
Southwest Corridor Park, South End/Roxbury, 5 miles from Franklin Park to Copley Place, Boston.

Blue Hills Reservation
Designated paths for mountain bikes open seasonally. Maps available at Reservation Headquarters, Hillside Street, Milton.

Middlesex Fells Reservation
Designated paths for mountain bikes open seasonally. Maps are available at Reservation



Riding along the Charles River

Boating Landings and Launches

Public Landings
Boston - Clarendon Street, Back Bay
Boston - Hatch Shell, Embankment Road
Boston - Pinckney Street, Back Bay
Boston - Brooks Street at Nonantum Road
Boston - Charles River Dam @ Museum of Science
Boston Harbor - George's Island, Lovell's Island, Peddock's Island
Brighton - Artesani Playground off Soldiers Field Road

Launching Ramps
Boston - Charles River - Daly Recreational Center, Nonantum Road in Brighton/Newton
Medford - Mystic River - Wellington Yacht Club (limited parking)
Nahant - Nahant Beach - Harbor side

Camping

Boston Harbor - Lovell's and Peddock's Islands
A free permit to camp on Lovells and Peddocks Islands must be obtained by writing to MDC Reservations and Historic Sites, 98 Taylor Street, Dorchester. Pets and alcohol are not allowed. Fresh water is not available on the island. Free water taxi service leaves Georges Island daily and visits Lovells, Peddocks, Gallops, Grape and Bumpkin Islands. For further information about the Harbor Islands State Park, call 727-7676.
Permits: permits are required at MDC Reservations for picnics (25 people or more), camping at Lovells and Peddocks Islands; and group visits.

Saugus - Camp Nihan
♿ Walnut Street Rt. 129. This 60-acre site adjacent to the Breakheart Reservation provides overnight camping for supervised youth groups belonging to non-profit organizations. The facilities at Camp Nihan include: four cabins with bunks housing 12 persons each, six campsites (each accommodating 25 to 30 people), charcoal grills, swimming (pond), hiking, fishing, canoeing, cross-country skiing. Call (617) 727-5380 for permit information; call 231-1203 for availability.

Canoeing

Canoe Launches
Cambridge - Charles River, Magazine Beach off Memorial Drive (cartop boats only)
Milton - Paul's Bridge Canoe Launch, Neponset River, junction of Brush Hill Road and Neponset Valley Parkway.
Newton - Riverside Canoe Launch, Charles River, Nonantum Road
Needham - Canoe Launch, Charles River, Redwing Bay
Weston - Riverside Recreation Area, Charles River, Rt. 128, Exit 23

Canoe Rentals and Instruction
Newton - Charles River Recreation Inc., Canoe and Kayak Instruction
2401 Commonwealth Avenue (617) 965-5110
Season: Early April to late October. Weekdays, 10:00am to dusk; weekends, 9:00am to dusk. Many levels of instruction are offered for canoes, kayaks, and sculls. Please call for more information.

Soldier's Field Road
Westbound between the Eliot Bridge and the Publick Theatre
(617) 462-2513, 10:00 am to dusk Saturday, Sunday and Holidays/noon to dusk on Fridays.

Community Gardens

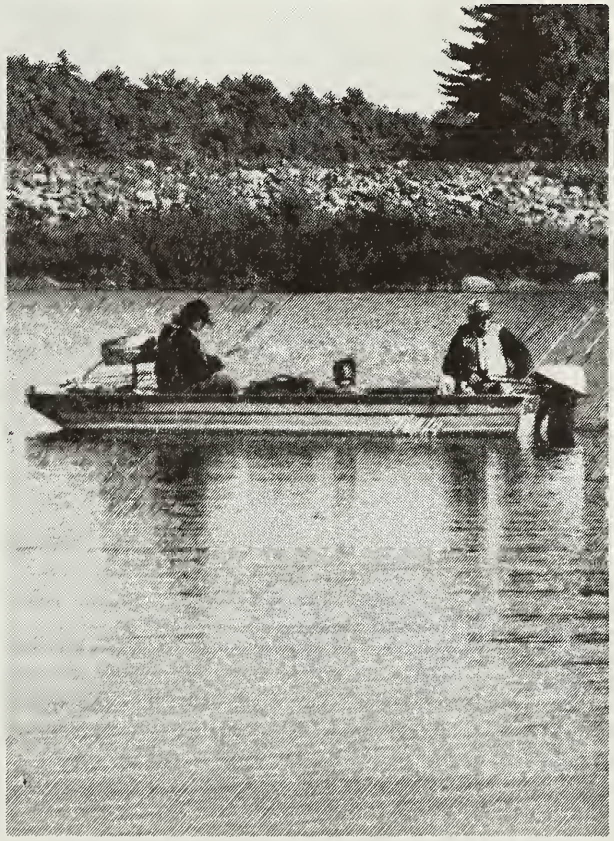
Boston - Southwest Corridor Park
Boston - Herter Center Park, Soldier's Field Road
Boston - Charles River Community Gardens, Soldier's Field Road

Fishing - Fresh Water

Belchertown - Quabbin Reservoir
25,216-acre water area, located 65 miles west of Boston.
Belmont - Mill Pond, Beaver Brook Reservation, Mill Street Children's fishing area.
Boston to Weston: Charles River, Shore Fishing
Clinton - Wachusett Reservoir, 36 miles of shoreline.
Hyde Park - Stony Brook Reservation, Turtle Pond.
Malden - Fellsmere Pond, Fellsway East, Children's fishing area.
Medford - Quarter Mile Pond, Middlesex Fells Reservation, Woodland Road
Milton-Canton
  Blue Hill River, Blue Hills Reservation
  Houghton's Pond, Hillside Street
  Hultman's Pond, Blue Hills Parkway and Canton Street
  Pine Tree Brook, Harland Street and Unquity Road
  Ponkapoag Pond, Randolph Street
Needham - Cutler Park, Kendrick Street
Newton - Hammond Pond, Hammond Pond Parkway
Quincy - St. Moritz Pond, off Furnace Brook Parkway
Saugus - Pearce and Silver Lakes, Breakheart Reservation, Lynn Fells Parkway near Rt. 1.
Stoneham - Dark Hollow Pond, Middlesex Fells Reservation.
Southboro - Sudbury Reservoir, 38 miles of shore fishing
Winchester - Aberjona River, Mystic River Reservation, Mystic Valley Parkway
Winchester/Medford - Mystic Lakes, Mystic River Reservation, Mystic Valley Parkway

Fishing - Salt Water

Boston Harbor
George's, Lovell's and Peddock's Islands
Boston
Old Harbor Park, Harbor Point
Lynn - Lynn Fishing Pier,
Lynnway at General Edwards Bridge
Nahant
Nahant Beach, Nahant Causeway
Quincy
Black's Creek, Quincy Shore Drive
Revere
Revere Beach, Revere Beach Boulevard
South Boston
John J. McCorkle Fishing Pier, Day Boulevard
South Boston
City Point, Rotunda, Day Boulevard (Pier Fishing)



Ice Fishing

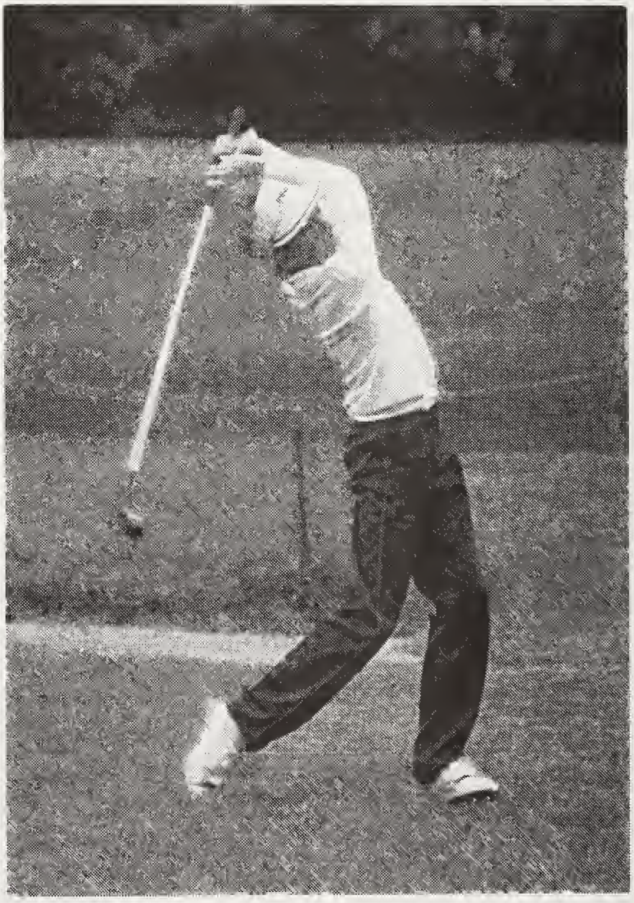
Charles River Lakes District
(Designated areas only)
For MDC permit information, call 727-7090 or
Bears Den Bait Shop, Waltham (617) 727-4708.

Foot Paths and Trails

Maps are available at Reservation Headquarters

Blue Hills Reservation (617) 698-1802
Boston, Braintree, Canton, Dedham, Milton, Randolph and Quincy.
Middlesex Fells Reservation (617) 662-5230
Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham, and Winchester.
Breakheart Reservation (617) 233-0834, Saugus, Wakefield
Stony Brook Reservation (617) 698-1802, Hyde Park, West Roxbury
Hammond Pond Reservation (617) 698-1802, Hammond Pond Parkway, Newton
Back River Reservation, Stodder's Neck, Rt. 3A, Weymouth

Golf Courses



Canton
Ponkapoag Golf Course
(617) 828-4242
Season:Early April to early December.
Hours: 5:30am to dusk, seven days per week.

Ponkapoag Golf Course is one of the few 36-hole facilities in Massachusetts. Course #1 is long, narrow and of championship caliber. Course #2 is average length, wide and easily played by the average golfer. Other features include a practice green, full driving range, restaurant, full pro shop, and lessons. Route 138 off Route 128, Exit 2.

Weston
Leo J. Martin Memorial Golf Course, (617) 894-4903
Season: Early April to early December
Hours: 5:30am to dusk, seven days per week.

The Leo J. Martin Golf Course began play in the 1930's. During the winter months, the Martin is transformed into the most complete cross-country ski area in eastern Massachusetts. It features an 18-hole course, practice green, full driving range, snack bar, full pro shop, lessons. Route 128S, Exit 54 to Route 30, right on Concord Road, Route 128N, Exit 51 to Route 30, left on Park Road.

Museums and Historic Sites

Boston - Fort Warren, George's Island
This military fort defended Boston Harbor in all U.S. wars through World War II and was used as a prison during the Civil War for Confederate military and civil personnel. It is a National Landmark.

Boston - Fort Independence, Castle Island
Continuous fortification since 1634. Present fort built between 1834 and 1851. Open weekends only, Memorial Day through Labor Day. See page 29 for further information and directions to Castle Island.

Hull - Fort Revere
Telegraph Hill (617) 727-5290
First fortified during the Revolutionary War and originally called Fort Independence, this fortification saw service through World War II.

♿ **Milton - Trailside Museum**
Blue Hills Reservation, 1904 Canton Ave. (617) 333-0690
Live animal exhibits and other displays depicting natural history of the Blue Hills area

Quincy - The Quincy Homestead
345 Butler Rd., corner of Hancock St. (617) 472-5117. Historic homestead built in 1706 with furnishings of the 1822 period. Operated in cooperation with the Colonial Dames.

Quincy - Lightship "Nantucket I" WLV 612
Marina Bay, (617) 727-2507. Open seasonally May to October, hours vary.
One of the MDC's more recently acquired attractions, the Nantucket I WLV 612 was the last U.S. lightship in service and the only one to be recommissioned by the U.S. Coast Guard.

West Roxbury - Brook Farm Historic Site
Baker Street, 1/3 mile west of VFW parkway. Open year-round, dawn to dusk (617) 698-1802. This National Historic Landmark is 179 acres of rolling fields, woodlands, and wetlands. Brook Farm is famous for its role as a transcendentalist community.

Observation Towers

East Boston - Belle Isle Marsh (tower - 16 feet)
Views of the marsh, Beachmont, Winthrop and the Boston skyline.
Milton - Eliot Tower (elevation - 620 feet)
Blue Hills Reservation.
Medford - Wright's Tower (elevation - 243 feet)
Pine Hill, Middlesex Fells Reservation
Excellent views of the Boston skyline, Harbor Islands, Mystic River Valley and the Middlesex Fells.
Medford - Mystic River Reservation Tower
(tower - 16 feet) Mystic Valley Parkway
The highest point of land along the coast, offering a panoramic vista.
Milton - Chickatawbut Tower (elevation - 504)
Blue Hills Reservation
Stoneham - Bear Hill Tower (elevation - 317 feet), Middlesex Fells Reservation. Views north to Cape Ann, New Hampshire and west to Mt. Wachusett.
Weston - Norumbega Tower (elevation - 110 feet)
Charles River, Norumbega Road

Right: Wright's Tower, Middlesex Fells

Playgrounds

Arlington - Mystic Valley Pkwy near High Street
♿ **Belmont/Waltham** - Waverly Oaks, Trapelo Road (wading pool)
♿ **Belmont** - Mill Pond - Beaver Brook Reservation, Mill Street
Boston - Berkeley Street, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
Boston - Deerfield Street, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
Boston - Hereford Street, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
Boston - Pinckney Street, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
Boston - Union Boat House, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
♿ **Boston** - Charlesbank Park, Storrow Memorial Embankment, Back Bay
Brighton - Richard T. Artesani Playground, Soldiers Field Road
Brighton - James F. Reilly Playground, Cleveland Circle
Cambridge - Magazine Beach Tot Lot, Memorial Drive
Cambridge - Murphy's Tot Lot, Greenough Boulevard
♿ **Chelsea** - Mary O'Malley Park Tot Lot, Commandant's Way
♿ **Dedham** - Riverdale Park, Bridge Street
♿ **Dorchester** - Lower Mills VFW Memorial Post, Ventura Street
Dorchester - Phillip McMorrow Playground, Victory Road
♿ **Dorchester** - Rev. William F. Toohig Playground, Gallivan Boulevard
Dorchester - James E. Leahy Recreational Area, Tenean Beach, Morrissey Boulevard
♿ **East Boston** - Constitution Beach, Orient Heights
Everett - Allied Veterans Memorial Recreation Center, Elm Street
Hyde Park - Paul J. Colella Memorial Playground, Readville Street
♿ **Hyde Park** - John H. Dooley Playground, Reservation Road
Hyde Park - William A. Doyle Memorial Playground, River Street
Hyde Park - Lawler Playground, Sunnyside Street
Hyde Park - John J. Moynihan Memorial Playground, Truman Highway
Hyde Park - John F.Thompson Ctr. for the Handicapped, Smithfield Road
Jamaica Plain - Anson Street Tot Lot, Southwest Corridor Park
Jamaica Plain - Armory Street Tot Lot, Southwest Corridor Park
Jamaica Plain - Boynton/McBride Street Tot Lot, Southwest Corridor Park
Jamaica Plain - Everett Street Tot Lot, Southwest Corridor Park
♿ **Jamaica Plain** - Joseph E. Johnson Memorial Playground, Southwest Corridor Park
Jamaica Plain - Lawndale Terrace Tot Lot, Southwest Corridor Park
Jamaica Plain - Spaulding Street Tot Lot, Southwest Corridor Park
♿ **Mattapan** - Msgr. Francis A. Ryan Memorial Playground, River Street
Medford - West Medford Playground, Mystic River Road
Milton - Houghton's Pond, Blue Hills Reservation, Hillside Street
Nahant - Nahant Beach Tot Lot near parking lot on the beach
Quincy - Bunker Hill Lane Tot Lot, Furnace Brook Parkway
Quincy - William R. Caddy Memorial Park, Quincy Shore Drive
♿ **Quincy** - Shea Rink Tot Lot, Willard Street
Roxbury - Mission Hill Deck Tot Lot, Southwest Corridor Park
Saugus - Pearce Lake, Breakheart Reservation
Saugus - Parcher Park, Breakheart Reservation
Somerville - Dilboy Field Playground, Alewife Brook Parkway
Somerville - John J. Murphy, Jr. Memorial Playground, Foss Park, McGrath Highway
♿ **S. Boston** - Castle Island Playground, Day Boulevard
♿ **S. Boston** - Marine Park Playground, Day Boulevard
South End - Cosmopolitan Playground, Southwest Corridor park at Carlton Street
Watertown - Charles River Road Playground near Watertown Square
Winchester - Sandy Beach Playground, Mystic Valley Parkway

Castle
Island
Tot lot

Running Paths

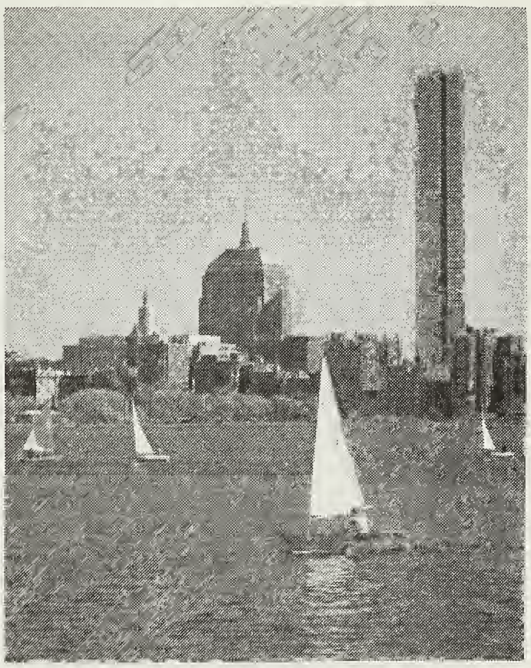
Boston -Charles River Basin, 17 miles
Brighton - Cleveland Circle, 1.6 miles
Hull - Nantasket Beach, 3 miles
Lynn/Nahant Beach - 5 miles
Saugus - Breakheart Reservation, 3.1 miles
South Boston - Castle Island, 6.2 miles

Sailing and Rowing

Boston - Community Boating, (617) 523-1038
21 Embankment Road on the Charles River Esplanade between the Hatch Shell and the Longfellow Bridge. Programs from early April to early November.

♿ **Brighton** - Community Rowing, (617) 964-2455
Daly Rink, Nonantum Road. Open from April-October
Instruction offered for beginners, recreational and competitive rowers. Special programs for physically challenged and visually impaired people.

♿ **South Boston** - Harry McDonough Sailing Program
Day Boulevard, Castle Island (617) 268-8556
Open from late May to early October.
Special programs for visually impaired persons.



Sailing along the Charles River

Skating Rinks

Rinks start opening in September with some remaining open until June.
Call the district office for hours. For ice rental information call (617) 727-9547 x450
(C)Concession (R)Skate Rentals (S)Skate Sharpening (L)Lessons (V)Vending Machines

Charles District (617) 727-4708
Boston - Steriti Memorial Rink, Commercial Street, 523-9327
Brighton - Daly Memorial Rink, Nonantum Road, 527-1741 (C,R,S,L)
Cambridge - Simoni Memorial Rink, Gore Street, 354-9523
Charlestown - Emmons Horrigan O'Neill Memorial Rink, Rutherford Avenue, 242-9728
Somerville - Veterans Memorial Rink, Somerville Avenue, 623-3523 (C,S)
♿ **Waltham** - Veterans Memorial Rink, Totten Pond Road, 893-9409 (C,L)

Mystic District (617) 727-4708
East Boston - Porazzo Memorial Rink, Constitution Beach, 567-9571 (C)
Everett - Allied Veterans Memorial Rink, Elm Street, 389-8684 (C)
♿ **Lynn** - Connery Memorial Rink, Shepard Street, 599-9474 (C, V)
Medford - LoConte Memorial Rink, Veterans Parkway, 395-9594 (C,R,S,L)
♿ **Medford** - Flynn Memorial Rink, Woodland Road, 395-8492 (C,R,S,L)
Revere - Cronin Memorial Rink, Revere Beach Parkway, 284-9491 (C,S,L)

Harbor District (617) 727-8865
♿ **Dorchester** - Devine Memorial Rink, Morrissey Boulevard, 436-4356 (C,R)
Quincy - Shea Memorial Rink, Willard Street, 472-9325 (C,R,S,L)
♿ **South Boston** - Murphy Memorial Rink, Day Boulevard, 269-7060 (C,R,S)
Weymouth - Connell Memorial Rink, Broad Street, 335-2090 (C)

Neponset District (617) 727-6034
Brighton - Reilly Memorial Rink, Cleveland Circle, 277-7822 (C,R,S,L)
Hyde Park - Bajko Memorial Rink, Turtle Pond Parkway, 364-9188 (C,L)
♿ **Milton** - Ulin Memorial Rink, Unquity Road, 696-9869 (C,S,L)
West Roxbury - Bryan Memorial Rink, VFW Parkway, 323-9512 (L)

Future hall of famers at the Flynn Rink in Medford

Downhill

Blue Hills Ski Area,
Blue Hills Reservation,
Milton/Canton
Ski School-Tickets, 828-5090
Ski Shop, 828-7300
Ski Conditions, 828-5070
Office, 828-7490
309' vertical drop
Double chair lifts, snow making, seven slopes, ski patrol, rentals, night skiing, ski shop, ski school, restaurant, and reduced group rates.
Route 138 North,
Exit 2 off 128

Lots of snow and smiles at the Blue Hills Ski Area

Nordic Ski Touring and Cross Country

Charles River Recreation Inc. Ski Touring and Cross-Country
(617) 965-5110
Open seven days a week until 10:00pm. Sundays until 6:00pm. Located at the MDC's Martin Golf Course in Weston, 20 minutes from downtown Boston just off the Mass Pike at Rt. 128, or a 20 minute walk from the MBTA Riverside Station.
Lighted groomed trails, rentals, sales of new and used equipment, refreshments, showers, lockers, equipment repairs and maintenance, and reduced group rates. Beginner and intermediate lessons are available. For information on schedules and fees, please call 891-6575.

Middlesex Fells Ski Touring and Cross-Country
Middlesex Fells Reservation, (617) 662-5230
Created by Harvard Community Health Plan and the MDC, this 6-mile trail consists of two loops with a variety of levels. Bulletin boards, maps and trail markers delineate the route. Trail heads are located at the Sheepfold and Bellevue Pond parking lots. The public is welcome during daylight hours free of charge. Free trails maps are available.
Directions: MBTA: Orange line to Wellington Station, MBTA bus # 100 to Elm Street, walk south to the rotary, turn right on South Border Road. Bellevue Pond and ski area are 1/5 mile right on South Boarder Road. Sheepfold Section-when you exit on Elm Street, walk north on Rt. 28 underneath overpass, sign is on left. By Car: Take I-93 to exit 33, Rt. 28 Fellsway West from rotary, go north on the Fellsway or South Border Road, or take I-93 to exit 34 and follow Pond Street east to Woodland Road.

Blue Hills Reservation Ski Touring and Cross-Country
Blue Hills Reservation, Milton/Canton, (617) 698-1802
Open seven days a week, dawn until dusk. Bulletin boards and maps delineate routes. The public is welcome during daylight hours. For more information and trail maps, call reservation headquarters.
Directions: MBTA: Take the Red Line to Quincy Center, take MBTA bus #238, exit at West and Willard Streets across from skating rink, cross rink parking lot to St. Moritz Nature Trail. By car: Rt. 128 to Exit 3, Houghton's Pond. Turn right at stop sign onto Hillside Street. Houghton's Pond is approximately one mile on the right. Or continue to reservation headquarters on the left, next to the MDC stables.

Swimming Pools

Pools are open from late June to early September unless otherwise noted.
Please call the District Office for more information.

Charles District (617) 727-4708
Boston - Lee Memorial Pool, Charles Street, West End, 523-9746
Brighton - Brighton/Allston Pool, North Beacon Street, 254-2965
Cambridge - McCrehan Memorial Pool, Rindge Avenue, 354-9381
Cambridge - Veterans Memorial Pool, Memorial Drive, 354-9381
Somerville - Dilboy Field Memorial Pool, Alewife Brook Parkway, 623-9321
Somerville - Latta Brothers Memorial Pool, McGrath Highway, 623-9174
Waltham - Connors Memorial Pool, River Street, 899-0106
Watertown - Dealtry Memorial Pool, Pleasant Street, 923-0073

Mystic District (617) 727-4708
Chelsea - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Pool, Carter Street, 884-9630
Everett - Allied Veterans Memorial Pool, Elm Street, 389-9401
Malden - Holland Memorial Pool, Mountain Avenue, 324-9350
♿ **Melrose** - Lloyd Memorial Pool, Tremont Street, 979-0047
♿ **Stoneham** - Hall Memorial Pool, North Border Road, 438-9888

Harbor District (617) 727-8865
Roxbury - Cass Memorial Pool, Washington Street, 445-9519
♿ **Weymouth** - Connell Memorial Pool, Broad Street, 335-2090

Neponset District (617) 727-6034
Brighton - Reilly Memorial Pool, Cleveland Circle, 277-7822
Hyde Park - Olsen Memorial Pool, Turtle Pond Parkway, 364-9524
W. Roxbury - Phelan Memorial Pool, VFW Parkway, 322-9512

Spray Pools

♿ **Belmont** - Beaver Brook Reservation, Trapelo Road
Boston - Artesani Playground
Cambridge - McCrehan Memorial Pool, Rindge Avenue
Everett - Allied Veterans Memorial Pool, Elm Street
Hyde Park - Moynihan Playground, Truman Highway
Hyde Park - Olsen Pool, Turtle Pond Parkway
Jamaica Plain - Stony Brook Deck, Southwest Corridor Park
♿ **Jamaica Plain** - Johnson Playground, Green & Lamartine Streets
Malden - Holland Memorial Pool, Mountain Avenue
♿ **Mattapan** - Ryan Playground, River Street
Roxbury - Mission Hill Deck, Southwest Corridor Park
Somerville - Dilboy Memorial Pool, Alewife Brook Parkway
Somerville - Foss Park, McGrath Highway at Broadway
Stoneham - Hall Memorial Pool, North Border Road
Watertown - Dealtry Memorial Pool, Pleasant Street

Tennis Courts

Tennis courts are open from dawn to dusk. Lighted courts are open until 10:00pm.
(#) number of courts.

Belmont/Waltham - Waverly Oaks, Beaver Brook Reservation (2)
Boston - North End Park, Commercial Street, (2)
Boston - Charlesbank Park, Charles Street, (4 lighted)
Chelsea - Mary O'Malley Park, Commandant's Way (2)
Dedham - Riverdale Park, Bridge Street (2)
Dorchester - Tenean Beach, Conley Street, (2)
East Boston - Constitution Beach, Orient Heights (2)
Everett - Allied Veterans Recreation Center, Elm Street (2)
Hyde Park - Camp Meigs, park Avenue (2)
Hyde Park - Moynihan Park, Truman Parkway (2)
Hyde Park - Martini Shell, Truman Parkway (2)
Hyde Park - Weider Playground, Dale Street (1 lighted)
Hyde Park - Dooley Playground, Reservation Road, (5)
Jamaica Plain - Stony Brook Deck, Southwest Corridor Park (2)
Mattapan - Ryan Playground, River Street (2)
Medford - Hormel Stadium, Veterans Memorial Parkway (4 lighted)
Milton - Houghton's Pond Recreation Area, Blue Hill River Road (4)
Nahant - Nahant Beach, Nahant Beach Parkway (5)
Quincy - Willard Street at Shea Rink (2)
Roxbury - Bromley-Heath Deck, Southwest Corridor Park (1)
Roxbury - Mission Hill Deck, Southwest Corridor Park (2)
Somerville - George Dilboy Field, Alewife Brook Parkway (2)
Somerville - Saxton J. Foss Park, McGrath Highway @ Broadway (2)
South Boston - Marine Park, Day Boulevard, (1 lighted)
Watertown - Canalouga Park, Pleasant Street (1)

Thompson Center for the Handicapped

♿ **Smith Field Road and Turtle Pond Parkway, Hyde Park (617) 361-6161**
Season: May to September by appointment

Formally dedicated on July 11, 1980, this playground facility is specifically designed for handicapped and special needs people. The Center is available for individuals and groups. Please call for hours and reservations.

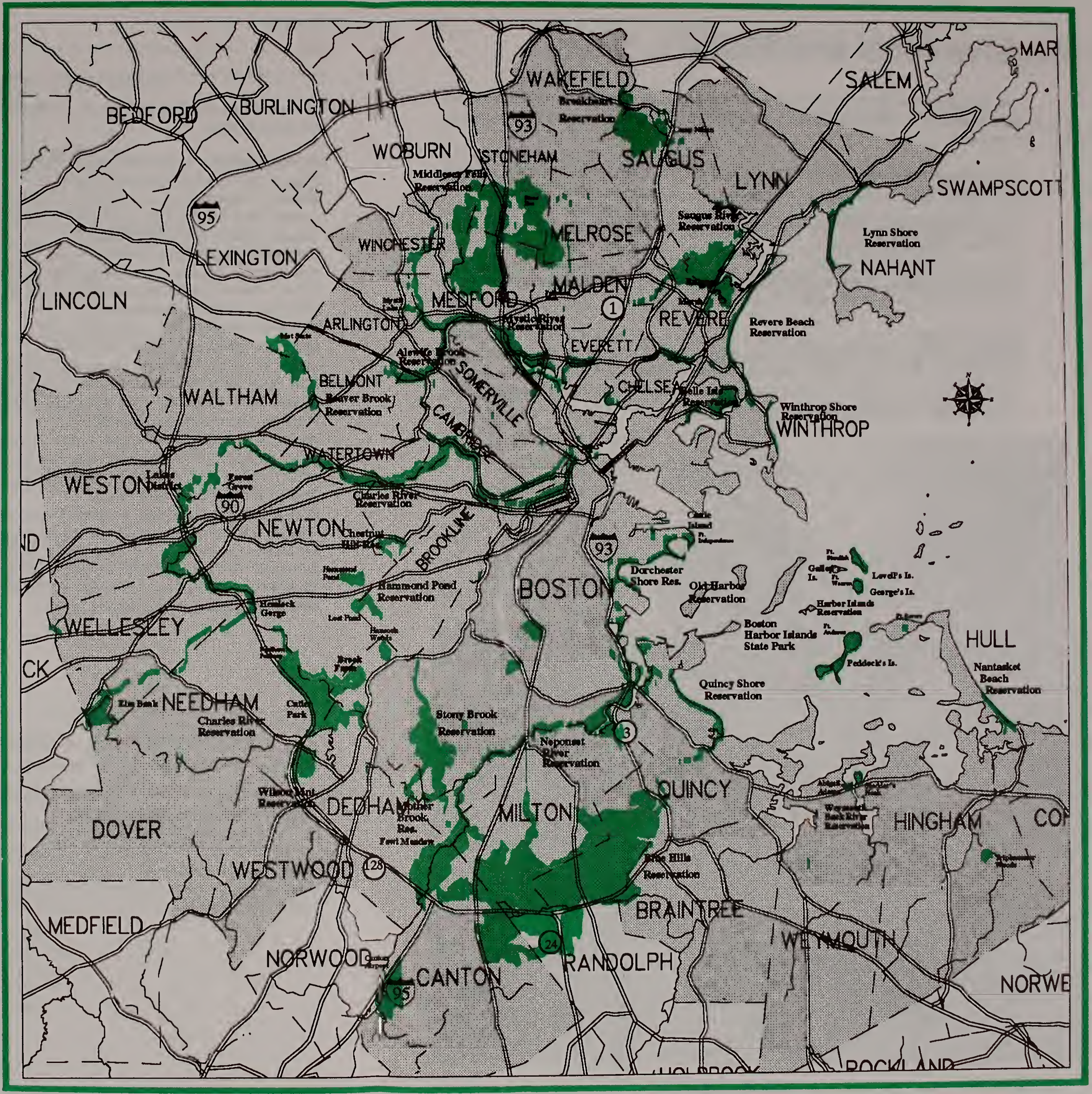
Features: Swings, slides, stocked artificial pond, mini-amphitheater, picnic area, trails, sand box, observation tower, service building and accessible rest rooms.

Metropolitan District Commission

Founded in 1893, the Metropolitan Park System is the first regional park system in the country. Today, the Metropolitan District Commission preserves and protects more than 19,000 acres of urban parkland, which offer a wide variety of opportunities for park users.

Within the MDC park system are large natural areas for walking, studying nature, or just relaxing, as well as active recreation sites such as skating rinks, swimming pools and ball fields. The park system has preserved many historic and culturally important sites including fortifications, Native American encampments and other properties which have had an important role in the history of the region and the country.

The mission of today's Metropolitan Park System is to protect our natural and cultural resources for present and future generations and to build an appreciation and stewardship for these parks through educational programs and community outreach.


BEDFORD
BURLINGTON
WOBURN
WAKEFIELD
Breakheart Reservation
STONEHAM
SAUGUS
LYNN
SALEM
MAR
SWAMPSCOTT
Middlesex Fells Reservation
WINCHESTER
MELROSE
Saugus River Reservation
Lynn Shore Reservation
NAHANT
95
93
LEXINGTON
MEDFORD
MALDEN
1
REVERE
Revere Beach Reservation
LINCOLN
ARLINGTON
Mystic River Reservation
EVERETT
Alewife Brook Reservation
SOMERVILLE
BELMONT
Beaver Brook Reservation
CHELSEA
Belle Isle Reservation
Winthrop Shore Reservation
WINTHROP
WALTHAM
CAMBRIDGE
WATERTOWN
WESTON
Forest Grove
90
Charles River Reservation
NEWTON
Chestnut Hill Res.
BROOKLINE
ND
Castle Island
Ft. Independence
BOSTON
Dorchester Shore Res.
Old Harbor Reservation
Hammond Pond
Hammond Pond Reservation
Hemlock Gorge
WELLESLEY
Ft. Standish
Gallops Is.
Ft. Warren
Lovell's Is.
George's Is.
Harbor Islands Reservation
Boston Harbor Islands State Park
Ft. Andrews
HULL
Peddock's Is.
Nantasket Beach Reservation
Hancock Woods
Brook Farm
CK
Elm Bank
NEEDHAM
Cutler Park
Charles River Reservation
Stony Brook Reservation
Neponset River Reservation
Quincy Shore Reservation
3
QUINCY
Wilson Mt. Reservation
DEDHAM
Mother Brook Res.
Fowl Meadow
MILTON
Weymouth Back River Reservation
HINGHAM
CO
DOVER
WESTWOOD
128
Blue Hills Reservation
BRAINTREE
MEDFIELD
NORWOOD
24
WEYMOUTH
CANTON
RANDOLPH
NORWE
HOLBROOK
ROCKLAND

🟩 MDC Reservations and Facilities

Reservations and Historic Sites

The Metropolitan District Commission's Division of Reservations and Historic Sites manages most major open spaces within metropolitan Boston. The reservation system encompasses three general ecosystems:

The **Woodland Reservations** include high hills and rocky outcroppings as well as fine examples of New England forest.

The **River Reservations** protect major freshwater streams and associated wetlands, helping to assure good water quality and riverine habitat.

The **Coastal Reservations** protect barrier beaches, coastal wetlands and estuary habitats and provide public access to the shore and the Boston Harbor Islands.

Permit Information

Permits are required at MDC Reservations for picnics (groups of 25 or more); camping at Lovell's and Peddock's Islands; and group visits. Camp Nihan in Breakheart Reservation is available (for non-profit groups only) and there is a fee per cabin per night. For specific permit information, site availability and fees, call the appropriate Region Office listed below.

MDC interpretive services and natural resource education

North Region
(617) 727-5380
One Woodland Road
Stoneham, MA 02180
Includes the following reservations: Beaver Brook, Belle Isle Marsh, Rumney Marsh, Breakheart (Camp Nihan), Middlesex Fells, Mystic River, Forest Grove, and Lynn/Nahant Beach.

Harbor Region
(617) 727-7676
98 Taylor Street
Dorchester, MA 02122
Includes the following reservations: Boston Harbor Islands State Park, Castle Island, Fort Revere, Lightship Nantucket, and Squantum Point Park.

South Region
(617) 727-4573
695 Hillside Street
Milton, MA 02186
Includes the following reservations: Blue Hills, Quincy Quarries, Quincy Homestead, Stony Brook, Cutler Park, Brook Farm, Hammond Pond, Hemlock Gorge, Elm Bank, Wollaston Beach, Caddy Park, Triphammer Woods, Wilson Mountain and Village Falls Park.

Woodland Reservations

Beaver Brook Reservation

Mill Street, Belmont/Waltham (617) 484-6357

Open year-round, dawn to dusk

The first reservation established by the Metropolitan Parks Commission (predecessor to the MDC) in 1893, Beaver Brook Reservation is 59 acres of open fields, wetlands and woodlands. Ponds, fields, marsh, and a cascading waterfall make the park's north section a delightful place to walk or picnic. The more developed south section features ballfields, a wading pool, and a tot lot.

Beaver Brook's historic significance includes reminders of its past; the remains of a 19th century fulling mill, the historic Robert Morris Copeland House (c.1835) and a monument to the Waverly Oaks, perhaps the most famous trees of the 1890's.

Free Programs

Natural history programs offered at Beaver Brook cover topics such as wildlife, the Waverly Oaks, and the ecosystem of ponds, wetlands, and woodlands. Beaver Brook's cultural history is also highlighted. (All programs subject to staffing.)

Services and Facilities

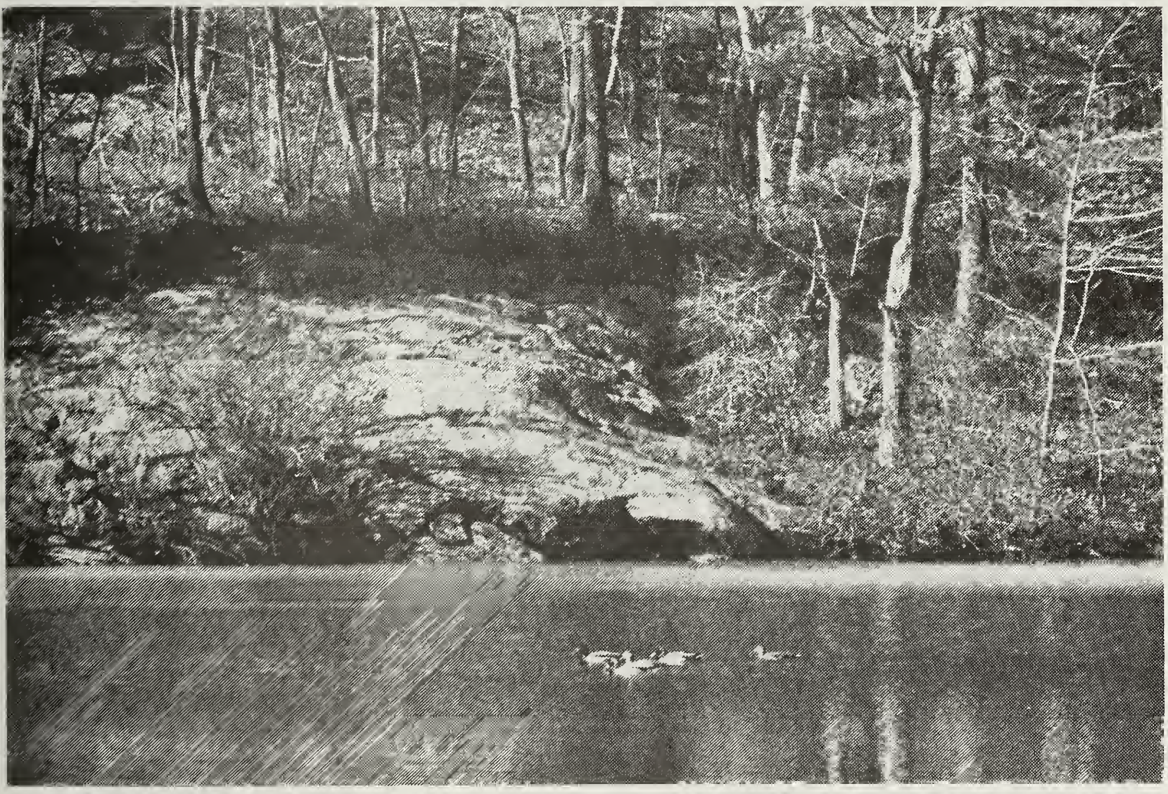
Restrooms, first aid, information, ballfield, bicycle path, fishing, picnic area, spray pool, tennis courts.

♿ Handicap accessible restrooms, playground and spray pool.

Directions

MBTA: Red Line to Harvard Station. MBTA Bus #73, Waverly Square (20 minutes). Exit on Mill Street onto Trapelo Rd. Park is located on either side of Trapelo Road. Headquarters is on Mill Street, the first house on the left.

By Car: From Harvard Square take Mt. Auburn Street out of the Square. Turn right onto Belmont Street. At the light, take Trapelo Road to Mill Street. Or take Route 2 to Winter Street, Belmont, left onto Concord Avenue, 100 yards ahead bear right onto Mill Street, entrance is on the right. Or follow Route 60 (Pleasant Street) until it meets Trapelo Road, 500 yards on the left is the Waverly Oaks southern section.



Everything is just ducky at Beaver Brook Reservation

Blue Hills Reservation

Hillside Street, Milton (617) 698-1802

Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

Blue Hills Reservation (7,000 acres) is the largest open space within 35 miles of Boston. This woodland reservation contains hundreds of different varieties of trees, shrubs and wild flowers that harbor a great diversity of wildlife, including many species that are rare or endangered in Massachusetts such as Timber Rattlesnake. The reservation boasts 20 hilltops that range in elevation from 295 feet to the 635 foot Great Blue Hill, the highest point along the Atlantic Coast, south of Maine. The reservation also contains more than 50 prehistoric sites, 16 historic structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places, 3 National Environmental Study Areas, and a National Historic Landmark - the Blue Hills Meteorological Observatory.

On Route 138, the Trailside Museum, operated for the MDC by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, houses excellent exhibits of the reservation's natural and cultural history and offers a variety of public programs. Ponkapoag Golf Course, also within the reservation on Route 138, is an outstanding 36-hole course. Downhill skiing on man-made snow is seasonally available at Great Blue Hill.

Free Programs

MDC Rangers conduct public programs that interpret the area's natural and cultural history, from prehistoric times to present day. Discussions, walks, workshops, and special events are presented year-round on topics including wildlife, recreation, Native American life and resource management.

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, bathhouse, first aid, information, concession, ballfields, bandstand, bicycling, horseback riding, canoeing, fishing, golf course, hiking, observation towers, picnic areas, skating rink, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, swimming, tennis.

♿ Handicap accessible picnic sites and boardwalk to the water's edge, also accessible restrooms at MDC Headquarters and the Visitor Center.

Hiking at the Blue Hills Reservation

Directions

MBTA: West area-Red Line to Ashmont Station, high speed line to Mattapan, take Canton and Blue Hills bus to Trailside Museum. For Houghton's Pond area, stay on the bus and exit at Blue Hill River Road at Howard Johnson's. Cross at light and walk one mile east onto Hillside. Central area-Red Line to Ashmont, take MBTA bus #240 or #240A southbound, exit at Randolph Avenue and Chickatawbut Road, Chickatawbut Overlook is one mile east, Houghton's Pond is two miles west on Chickatawbut Road. East area-Red Line to Quincy Center, take MBTA bus #238, exit at West and Willard Streets across from the skating rink, cross rink parking lot to St. Moritz Green Dot Trail.

By Car: Rt. 128 to Exit 3, Houghton's Pond. Turn right at stop sign onto Hillside Street. Houghton's Pond is approximately one mile on the right. Or continue to reservation headquarters on the left next to the MDC stables.

Breakheart Reservation

Forest Street, Saugus (617) 233-0834
Open year-round, dawn to dusk.
Vehicle access from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Breakheart Reservation is a 640-acre hardwood forest with jagged, rocky outcroppings, two fresh-water lakes, and a rambling section of the Saugus River. Seven rocky hills, over 200 feet high, provide vistas of Boston, southern New Hampshire and central Massachusetts. An extensive trail system through the woodlands guides visitors to various areas of the reservation.

Fishing in Silver and Pearce Lakes, hiking the trails and bird watching by the Saugus River are popular year-round activities. The supervised swimming area at Pearce Lake, one of the few fresh-water swimming spots north of Boston, draws crowds in the summer. In addition to its natural resources, the reservation has a rich cultural history.

Free Programs

Rangers conduct year-round programs that interpret the plant and animal life of the woods and ponds as well as reservation management issues and cultural themes of the reservation's past. In the summer, most programs begin at the Pearce Lake swimming area. Many of the programs are suitable for children. In addition special school programs are offered in the spring.

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first aid, information, bicycling, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, swimming, tot lot.

Directions

MBTA: No access

By Car: Route 1 to Lynn Fells Parkway, entrance on Forest Street. Pine Tops Road begins at entrance and loops for two miles with access to picnic areas, ponds and trails.

Pearce Lake,
Breakheart
Reservation

Hammond Pond & Lost Pond Reservation

Hammond Pond Parkway, Newton (617) 698-1802
Open year-round, dawn to dusk

Hammond Pond, a wooded reservation with a large, scenic pond, is located in the Chestnut Hill section of Newton adjacent to the city's Webster Conservation Area. It is a natural forest with wooded trails and large geological formations. Nearby Lost Pond has a quaking bog and system of natural trails.

Directions

Take Route 9 east or west to the Hammond Pond Parkway Exit. Just north of the Parkway is the reservation parking lot on the left.

Middlesex Fells Reservation

Malden, Medford, Winchester, Stoneham, Melrose (617) 322-2851
Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

"Fells" is the Saxon word for rocky, hilly tracts of land - an apt name for this scenic area, which is rich in local history. This site was once favored for timber, granite quarrying, ice industry, and water power for the many mills including one that manufactured some of the first vulcanized rubber products.

Today, the Middlesex Fells Reservation's 2,075 acres offer a welcome retreat for city dwellers and a suitable terrain for hikers, horseback riders, rock climbers, cross-country skiers and picnickers as well as natural and cultural history buffs.

Special features for visitors include the Sheepfold picnic area, Bellevue Pond and Virginia Woods. The Sheepfold is 10 acres of open field, ideal for picnics, frisbee playing and informal games. Bellevue Pond is a seasonal pond surrounded by trails and wide fire roads, some leading up to the stone tower which looks out over the Boston basin. Virginia Woods, the site of a vanished mill village called "Haywardville" is now a dense hemlock grove.

Free programs

Programs focusing on the natural and cultural history of the Middlesex Fells Reservation are free and offered to the public year-round.

Services and Facilities

Mountain Bike riding (Fire Roads and designated loop only), horseback riding, fishing, hiking, observation tower, picnic area, skating rink (Flynn Rink), cross-country skiing, swimming (Hall Pool), tot lot. Visitor Center located at the historic Botume House at 4 Woodland Road, Stoneham.

Directions

MBTA: Orange Line to Wellington Station, MBTA bus #100 to Elm Street, walk south to the rotary, turn right on South Border Road, Bellevue Pons and ski area are 1/5 mile right on South Border Road. Sheepfold section-when you exit on Elm Street, walk north on Route 28 underneath the overpass, sign is on the left.

By Car: Take I-93 to Exit 33, Route 28 Fellsway West, from the rotary go north on the Fellsway or South Border Road, or take I-93, Exit 34 to Pond Street to Woodland Road. Look for pull offs.

Middlesex Fells Reservation

Quincy Quarries Historic Site

Ricciuti Drive, West Quincy (617) 727-4573 or (617) 698-1802
Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

The Metropolitan District Commission manages this 112 acre site including Granite Railway Quarry, adjacent to the Blue Hills Reservation. It was here in West Quincy that America's large scale granite quarrying industry was born in 1825 when, after an exhaustive search throughout New England, Solomon Willard selected the area as the source of stone for the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown. With his development of the revolutionary construction techniques that made hard Quincy granite a practical building stone, Willard earned the title "Father of the Granite Industry".

Here too the Granite Railway was established in 1826. The Railway is a Civil Engineering Landmark. A pioneer in the American railroad industry, Gridley Bryant, engineered its design and construction and many of his inventions are still in use today.

During the next 140 years, over 50 quarries operated in Quincy, which became known nationwide as "The Granite City". The last active quarry closed in 1963.

Popular activities at the Quincy Quarries Historic Site include hiking, rock climbing, picnicking and scenic viewing. Trail connections to the Blue Hills Reservation are protected by recent parkland purchases.

Free programs
MDC Park Rangers offer programs year-round which highlight the rich history and natural resources of this unique area. Program topics include: "The Birth of Two Industries," and "Quarries Greenbelt Hike". All programs are subject to staffing.

Services and Facilities: Hiking, picnic area.

Directions
MBTA: Red Line to Quincy Center, take MBTA bus #215 to Copeland and Willard Streets, turn left on Willard, cross under the Expressway and take the first right onto Ricciuti Drive. Quarries are 1/4 mile on the right.

By Car: Route 93 (Southwest Expressway) to Furnace Brook Parkway (Exit 8) follow signs to Willard Street and cross under Route 93. Take the first right onto Ricciuti Drive at Mr. Tux. Quarries are 1/4 mile on the right.

Stony Brook Reservation

Turtle Pond Parkway, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, (617) 698-1802
Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

Enneking, Dedham and Turtle Pond Parkways wind through extensive tree covered hills, valleys, rock-outcroppings and wetlands; past Turtle Pond an into Hyde Park. Stony Brook Reservation contains 475 scenic acres which were the inspiration for America's first impressionist artist John J. Enneking. There is a 3 mile paved loop trail through the park.

Triphammer Woods

Hingham (617) 727-5293
Open Year Round, Dawn to Dusk

This 23 acre scenic, wooded area is located on the south shore of Triphammer Pond. This woodland habitat is home to numerous small mammals and beautiful songbirds. Enjoy a brisk walk on the woodland path surrounding the pond.

Services and Facilities: walking, hiking, fishing.

Directions: Parking available at gravel lot located on Hingham Conservation Property, accessed by following Leavitt Street (off Rte 228, next to Town Offices) to Popes Lane.

River Reservations

Charles River Reservation

The Charles River Reservation is an urban greenspace consisting of over 800 acres and 18 miles of river shoreline from Boston to Watertown Square. Currently, the Reservation is being extended at both the Boston and Watertoen ends, continuing its tradition as a world-class river park.

Charles River Dam

The Charles River Dam, built in 1978 and located behind North Station and the Fleet Center, maintains water levels in the lower Charles River and prevents storm waters and tide waters from flooding the basin. The dam replaces the old 1910 dam (located beneath the Museum of Science) which had no pumps for flood control. The new dam houses 6 giant engines and pumps that can drain up to four million gallons per minute during flood conditions. The dam's lock system allows passage of boats between the river and the tidal harbor, while fish ladders allow passage of anadromous fish such as herring and smelt. The dam can be visited during regularly scheduled tours or by appointment. Call (617) 727-0488 for more information.

Charles River Basin and Esplanade

Construction of the Charles River Dam in 1910 created the opportunity for a major water park with landscaped river banks. Until 1936 the river banks were narrow green space promenades. The generous gift of $1 million from Helen Storrow in memory of her husband, James, enabled landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff to design the lagoons and additional park lands.

Concerts on the Esplanade have been a tradition since 1910. The concerts gained international renown when, in the summer of 1929, Arthur Fiedler began the Boston Pops performances. In 1940, the construction of the Hatch Memorial Shell gave the Pops and a wide range of other artists and performers a first class stage for popular summer events.

The Charles River Basin and Esplanade retains a unique place in this country's history of public recreation. Frederick Law Olmsted's 1889 design for Charlesbank was America's first public playground. Community Boating was the country's first, and remains among the best, public boating program. For a modest fee, thousands of people have learned to sail on the Charles River. For those who prefer rowing, Community Rowing, located at the Daly Rink on the Charles Basin in Newton, offers instruction to the public. The Paul Dudley White Bike Path, a scenic 18-mile loop built in 1970 around the basin, was the park system's first planned bicycle path.

The New Basin Project and the Upper Charles Restoration Project are in the process of extending the pathways at both the Boston and Watertown ends of the loop.

John F. Kennedy Park

The John F. Kennedy Park located on Memorial Drive in Cambridge, is the Commonwealth's memorial to the former President. This 5-acre site is landscaped with plants that bloom at the time of the President's May birthday and a memorial fountain. The park uses materials indigenous to New England including native trees, and the granite for the foundation and the entrance pillars which are inscribed with quotations from the President's speeches.

Forest Grove Reservation

Forest Grove in Newton is an area of open woods for nature study, picnicking or just relaxing. Superb views and cool breezes can be enjoyed by bird watchers and fishermen alike. Fishing and hiking are offered at the park. Open year-round, dawn to dusk. For more information call (617) 662-5230.

Landry Park/Lakes District

The dam at Moody Street in Waltham creates the "Lakes District", an extensive water area and flooded meadow. At Waltham Center, Landry Park, with its fish ladder provides a pleasant open space adjacent to the Charles River Museum of Industry. Upstream a new "river walk" open the river to Prospect Street for bicyclists and pedestrians. The Lakes District offers excellent canoeing and winter ice fishing. Small boats can be launched at Woerd Avenue.

Hemlock Gorge Reservation

Hemlock Gorge in Needham and Newton is a small 23-acre wild area along the banks of the Charles River. The park is dominated by the steep gorge, the river, its surrounding stands of Hemlock trees and Echo Bridge, a huge granite and brick structure that spans the river and gorge. When built in 1877 by the Boston Water Works, the bridge was the second largest masonry arch in the United States. And in 1982, it was designated a National Historic Landmark. Atop the bridge one is afforded spectacular views of the river and neighboring lands. From a platform beneath the bridge's central arch, visitors have long enjoyed testing the echo that gave the structure its name. One of the first parcels acquired for the Metropolitan Park System, Hemlock Gorge's value as an open space remains as great today as in 1895 when the Commission originally acquired the property. Open year-round, dawn to dusk. For more information call (617) 698-1802.

Cutler Park

The six hundred acres known as Cutler Park comprise the largest remaining fresh water marsh on the middle Charles. Located in Needham and Dedham, the marsh and small lake attract over 100 species of birds which make Culter Park a prime spot for nature study. Other activities suitable to this wetland preserve are hiking, canoeing and fishing. Open year-round, dawn to dusk. Parking lot available on Kendrick Street, Needham. For more information call (617) 6598-1802.

Brook Farm Historic Site

This National Historic Landmark is 179 acres of rolling fields, woodland and wetland and was the location of the experimental society of Transcendentalists who lived on the farm in the 1840's. Tours are offered periodically through the year. The farm is located 1/3 mile west of the VFW Parkway on Baker Street in West Roxbury. For more information call (617) 698-1802.

Village Falls Park

Located at Red Wing Bay at Charles River Village in Needham, this scenic park provides passive recreation as well as a Charles River canoe launching site. The park is located off South and Fisher Streets in Needham. Open year-round, dawn to dusk. For more information call (617) 698-1802.

Elm Bank Reservation

Elm Bank Reservation, located in Dover and Wellesley. The 182 acres of woodlands, fields, and old estate property is surrounded on three sides by the Charles River. The reservation is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its many elements of estate landscaping. A variety of wildlife, including deer, thrive in the upland habitats and along the river. Through an agreement with the MDC, the Massahusetts Horticultural Society will be using a portion of the park as their suburban campus. The reservation is open year round, dawn to dusk. Entrance to the reservation is off Route 16, Wellesley. For more information call (617) 698-1802.

Wilson Mountain

Located in Dedham, this area of 207 acres offers a variety of scenic paths through mixed woodlands and rocky ledges. A small brook and wetlands provide variety in this rugged terrain. The park is located on Route 135 less than a mile from Exit 17 off Route 128.

Mystic River Reservation

The banks of the Mystic River are almost entirely publicly owned, from the Amelia Earhart Dam to the Mystic Lakes, making it one of the Commonwealth's best protected streams. The river has been much altered since the 1800's when its shores were largely saltmarsh.

Mary O'Malley Park

Acquired from the federal government after the closing of the historic Chelsea Naval Hospital, the park has striking views of the harbor and the Tobin Bridge over the Mystic River. A boat landing and shelter are located on an historic granite pier and a wind sculpture by William Wainwright enlivens the waterfront. Tennis courts and a large open lawn area for concerts and picnics are also available. The park is open year-round, dawn to dusk.

Torbert McDonald Park

McDonald Park honors a United States Congressman who served the district for 21 years. The park was built on a reclaimed dredge spoiled area left after the construction of Route 93. The award-winning landscape design of the meandering paths, trees and open lawns provides space for rest and enjoyment as well as bicycling, jogging, walking and informal games in a riverside setting.

Draw Seven Park

The Draw Number Seven Railroad Bridge, which once crossed the Mystic River, gave this park its name. Built in cooperation with the MBTA, this park provides much needed field game space for Somerville and adjacent communities. Draw Seven Park offers 9 acres of parkland including two soccer fields, a bikeway/walkway, a picnic area with shelter and beautiful landscaping.

Mystic Lakes

In 1893, when the Metropolitan Park System was established, large estates lined the shores of the Mystic Lakes. In part through generous gifts of land, the eastern shore became part of the park system. The western shores were never acquired and were subdivided into smaller house lots. Today the Mystic Lakes are popular for freshwater swimming at Sandy Beach. Special sailing programs are available at the Tufts University Boathouse. The Upper Mystic Lake is for non-powered boats only. The Lower Mystic Lake is for power boats with no wake. For information about Sandy Beach call (617) 662-5230.

Alewife Reservation

The 120-acre Alewife Reservation is among metropolitan Boston's largest urban wilds and provides habitat for an array of indigenous and migratory birds including Osprey and the Great Blue Heron. The anadromous herring migrates each spring from the Atlantic Ocean to the Reservation's Little Pond and Blair Pond to spawn.

A major portion of the Alewife Reservation is designated wetland and contains Little Pond, the Little River, and the Alewife Brook. A wooded uplands and meadow provides the opportunity to view the unusual mating ritual of the woodcock, a rare sight in an urban area. The Reservation is located at the end of the new Minuteman Bike Path in Arlington and is within easy walking distance of the Alewife MBTA Station. There is limited access for hikers and bird watchers. For more information call 727-9693.

Neponset River Reservation

The Neponset River, unlike the Charles and Mystic Rivers, remains a natural estuary with extensive marshlands at its mouth and significant freshwater wetlands along much of its upstream length. It provides an unusually rich and diverse habitat for both plants and animals including a number of threatened and endangered species.

The Neponset River is has been the focus of cleanup and restoration efforts by the MDC, the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and a number of citizen based and non-profit organizations. The MDC , with community advice completed, has proposed a Master Plan for the Lower Neponset River that proposes three new parks, potential acquisitions and enhancement of various existing properties.

Dorchester Shores Reservation

Malibu Beach, Victory Road Park and Tenean Beach provide the public with coastal access along the extended mouth of the Neponset River. Malibu Beach offers protected swimming. Victory Road Park is a passive park with indigenous planting on a reclaimed landfill. Tenean Beach is a popular swimming beach with playground facilities and tennis courts. Together these facilities are an important link in the planned continuous pathway and greenway system from Castle Island in South Boston to the Blue Hills Reservation, some eight miles of continuous waterfront and riverside public access.

Squantum Point Park

The Squantum Meadows were used as an airfield in the early 1900's. The site became the Massachusetts School for Naval Air Service in 1917 and within the year, the U.S. Naval Air Station. At the same time the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corp. was building 140 destroyers on 70 acres of the waterfront. Today, the site is used partly for worker parking and as a water shuttle stop for the MWRA as well as public park access to the waters of Dorchester Bay. The airfield, now overgrown, is outstanding bird habitat. The land will be designed as a major waterfront park when the MWRA no longer requires use of this site.

The park will include nature trails, a bird blind, interpretive signage, as well as a refurbished waterfront edge.

Neponset Marshes

The estuarine portion of the Neponset River upstream of Granite Avenue is characterized by extensive tidal marshes. Granite bound for Boston from Quincy was transferred by early railroad to boats at a pier on the Milton Shore. This segment of the river offers interesting canoeing and nature study opportunities. The recent acquisition of the bordering railroad right-of-way is designated for use as a multi-use trail.

Fowl Meadow

Designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Fowl Meadow is important habitat for wildlife and a source of drinking water for Dedham and Westwood. The Burma Road, a service roadway over an underground sewer, is used as public trail for nature study and a canoe launch between Paul's Bridge at Neponset Valley Parkway and Route 128.

Canton Airport

Recently purchased by the MDC, the former Canton Airport land offers 334 acres of lowland bird habitat and walking trails adjacent to the Neponset River, located off Neponset Street, Canton.

Coastal Reservations

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation

Bennington Street, East Boston (617) 727-5350
Open year-round, 9:00 a.m. to dusk.

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation preserves 152 acres of the 241-acre Belle Isle Marsh, Boston's last remaining salt marsh. A unique place to explore, the reservation exemplifies the type of wetlands that once lined the Massachusetts Bay shore. Centuries of flourishing plant life have made the marsh more fertile than the richest farm land. Its protected waters are nurseries to fish and shellfish and are critical habitat to many saltmarsh plants and wildlife rare to the metropolitan area. The Reservation is also an excellent bird watching site.

In addition to the preservation of the natural areas of the marsh, the MDC manages 28 acres of landscaped park with pathways, benches and an observation tower.

Free Programs

Guided walks explain the natural and cultural history of Belle Isle. Topics covered include saltmarsh ecology and the history of man's use of and the impact on the marsh. Special programs for community and school groups can also be arranged by contacting the reservation.

Services and Facilities

Information, hiking, observation tower, handicap access ♿

Directions

MBTA: Blue Line to Suffolk Downs Station, exit onto Bennington Street, turn left, the entrance is 500 yards on the right.

By Car: From the south take Rt. 93 north through the Callahan Tunnel onto Rt. 1A, take the second exit (Winthrop/Chelsea) onto Bennington Street. Continue 1.5 miles to the main entrance on the right. From the north take Rt. 1A south, left at the Ramada Inn sign in East Boston and follow Boardman Street to Bennington Street. Take a left onto Bennington, continue for 1/2 mile, entrance is on the right.

Boston Harbor Islands

The Boston Harbor Islands are a unique natural and cultural resource located within 45 minutes of downtown Boston. Visitors can enjoy picnicking, hiking, camping and learn about wildlife and military fortifications from MDC rangers. The islands afford spectacular views of Boston Harbor, the Boston skyline and open ocean. This Boston Harbor Islands State Park, now a National Recreation Area, is operated cooperatively by the MDC, the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and the National Park Service. The MDC manages George's, Lovell's and Peddock's Islands. (617) 727-1188.

Ferry Service is available from Long Wharf (next to the New England Aquarium), Hingham Shipyard and Lynn Heritage Park. Please call Boston Harbor Cruises for fare and schedule information at (617) 227-4320. Water taxi information is available at the park office, (617) 727-7676. Day use permits are required for groups of 25 or more. Permits are also required for camping and school groups. Please refer to page 18 for permit information.

Limited docking space is available for private boats at George's Island on a first-come, first-served basis. On all other islands, docks are available for off-loading only. Small prams are available for anchoring off-shore.

Fort Warren, George's Island

George's Island

Located on this 28-acre island is Fort Warren, a National Historic Landmark. Constructed between 1833 and 1869 of hand-hewn granite from the neighboring communities of Quincy and Cape Ann, Fort Warren achieved national prominence during the Civil War as a prison for captured Confederates. For over a century the Fort served as a key location for the defense of Boston. George's Island now serves as the entrance to the Boston Harbor Islands State Park and provides island water taxi service, rest rooms and a concession stand. George's is open to the public from May to mid-October.

Programs

MDC park rangers provide fort tours and historic and nautical programs. Special events such as the Civil War Encampment are scheduled on an annual basis and school curriculum packets are available. Contact the park office for a schedule of events.

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first aid, information, concession, boating, fishing, hiking, observation tower, picnic area.

♿ Handicap assistance provided getting on and off ferry. Restroom facilities and portions of the island and fort are accessible.

Lovell's Island

Characterized by its curved beaches and diverse wildlife, Lovell's Island is a peaceful and primitive island. Along its shores there are rocky tide pools, sand dunes and some of the best views of the outer harbor. Lovell's Island has the only designated swimming beach, with lifeguards, on the harbor islands.

Hidden in the center of the island are the remnants of Fort Standish, a turn-of-the-century military installation. Lovell's is also rich in nautical lore and stories of pirates and shipwrecks. The marsh, grassland and wooded areas attract a variety of birds and support a large population of rabbits. Individual and group camp sites provide a unique island experience. Lovell's island is accessible by the free water taxi from George's Island during the summer months.

Programs

Special events and daily programs bring alive the military history, folklore, geology, water quality, plants and birds of the island. Contact the park office for schedule of events and camping information

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first aid, camping, fishing, hiking, picnic area, swimming, magnificent views. No running water or electricity.

Peddock’s Island

One of the largest and most diverse of the Harbor Islands, this 180-acre island features cool woodlands, open fields, rocky beaches and a saltmarsh. The east head of Peddock's contains the buildings and gun batteries of Fort Andrews, active in harbor defense from 1904 to the end of World War II. There is a fresh water pond and wildlife sanctuary on the west head. Displays in the visitor's center offer insights to the island's unique natural and military history. Camping is a great way to enjoy Peddock's Island. The island is accessible by water taxi from George's Island during the summer months.

Programs

MDC Park Rangers offer island walks, fort tours, and special events that highlight the military use, folklore and natural history of the island and the harbor.

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, first aid, information, camping, fishing, hiking, observation tower, picnic area. No electricity or running water.

Castle Island

Day Boulevard, South Boston (617) 727-1188

Open year-round.

Fort Independence is open from Memorial Day to Columbus Day, weekends only.

Fort Independence, a pentagonal five-bastioned, granite fort built between 1834 and 1851, is the dominating feature of Castle Island. This 22-acre urban park is connected to the mainland by both pedestrian and vehicular causeways. The fort and the island are on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and Fort Independence is a National Historic Site.

Fort tours are conducted by the Castle Island Association in the summer months and there is interpretive signage for self-guided tours. The principle program theme, the History of Castle Island, stresses the role of the fort in harbor defense. Please call the Harbor Region Office at (617) 727-5290 for information and school programming.

Services and Facilities

Restrooms, information, concession, bicycling, fishing, scenic overlook, picnic area, swimming, tot lot.

♿ Handicap access restrooms, paths, lower level of fort, playground, and beach via ramp.

Directions

MBTA: Red Line to Broadway Station, MBTA Bus #9 or #11 to the end of the line. Walk to the right across Marine Park to the beach to the entrance of the fort.

By Car: Rt. 3 to JFK Exit, follow beach along William J. Day Boulevard, Castle Island is at the end of the Causeway.

Fort Revere

Hull (617) 727-1188

Located atop Telegraph Hill in the historic Pemberton section of Hull, this site was first fortified about 1776. Originally called Fort Independence, the site included a pentagonal fortification with 22 cannon which dominated the southerly approaches to Boston Harbor. Traces of the original earthworks still remain. Re-named Fort Revere, the site was converted into a major coastal defense fortification in the late 1800's. It was deactivated in the 1960's and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The MDC is currently developing plans to rehabilitate the site.

Directions

Take Nantasket Avenue to Farina Road to the top of the hill.

Lightship "Nantucket I" WLV 612

Marina Bay, Quincy (617) 727-2507
Open seasonally May to October, hours vary.

One of the newest MDC facilities, the Nantucket I WLV 612 was the last U.S. lightship in service and the only one to be recommissioned by the U.S. Coast Guard. This unique historic vessel is currently undergoing restoration and will operate as a floating museum within the Boston Harbor Island State Park and Massachusetts Bay.

Directions
MBTA: No access
By Car: From Boston take Route 3 South to Marina bay in Quincy.

Nahant Beach & Lynn Shore Reservation

Lynn, Nahant (617) 727-1397
Open year round, dawn to dusk. Summers dawn to 11:00 p.m.

Impressive seascapes can be viewed from four miles of these contiguous waterfront reservations. Over two miles of paved promenade is available to walk, jog, bike or roller skate and vast areas of hard-packed sand provide additional space at low tide. Ballfields, courts for tennis and racquetball, and two boat launching ramps into Lynn Harbor are located near Nahant Rotary and a handicap accessible tot lot is conveniently located nearby at Ward Bathhouse.

Parking for Lynn Shore Reservation, including Red Rock Park and King's Beach, is on-street along Lynn Shore Drive. At Nahant Beach Reservation, a lot that holds 1300 vehicles provides the main access to Long Beach and a nominal fee for parking is collected form May through September. The main lot is closed during winter months, but small lots at both ends of the causeway allow for year round access.

Special natural features include a rocky headland at Red Rock Park where marine plants and animals thrive in tidepools. There is also a narrow, mile long area of sand dunes and beach grass at the edge of Long Beach. An unusually large variety of shorebirds can be observed feeding in brown algae that accumulates on the beach near Nahant Rotary.

From June to Labor Day, visitors sun bathe, swim in the shallow water of Nahant Bay, fly kites and launch sailboards near Ward Bathhouse. Lifeguards are stationed on Long Beach during July and August and seasonal facilities include a comfort station and concession on Long Beach. The Ward Bathhouse provides public restrooms and showers, as well as, an information exhibit pertaining to the Reservation.

Free Programs
Subject to staff availability, interpretive programs on the coastal environment are offered to groups. Beach-related activities are offered year-round. Volunteers for programs and activities are encouraged. Contact the reservation staff for further information.

Services and Facilities
Restrooms, bathhouse, information, exhibits, concession, first aid, walking, bicycling, rollerskating, fishing, swimming, tennis, tot lot, boardsailing, boat launching and ballfields.

Directions
MBTA: From Haymarket Station to Central Square, Lynn, take MBTA bus #400, 440, 441, 442, or commuter rail, or take Blue Line to Wonderland, bus #441 or 442 (Marblehead). From Central Square take bus #439 to the rotary near the bathhouse.
By Car: Lynnway (Rt 1A) to Carroll Highway to Lynn Shore Drive.

Nantasket Beach Reservation

Nantasket Avenue, Hull (617) 727-8856

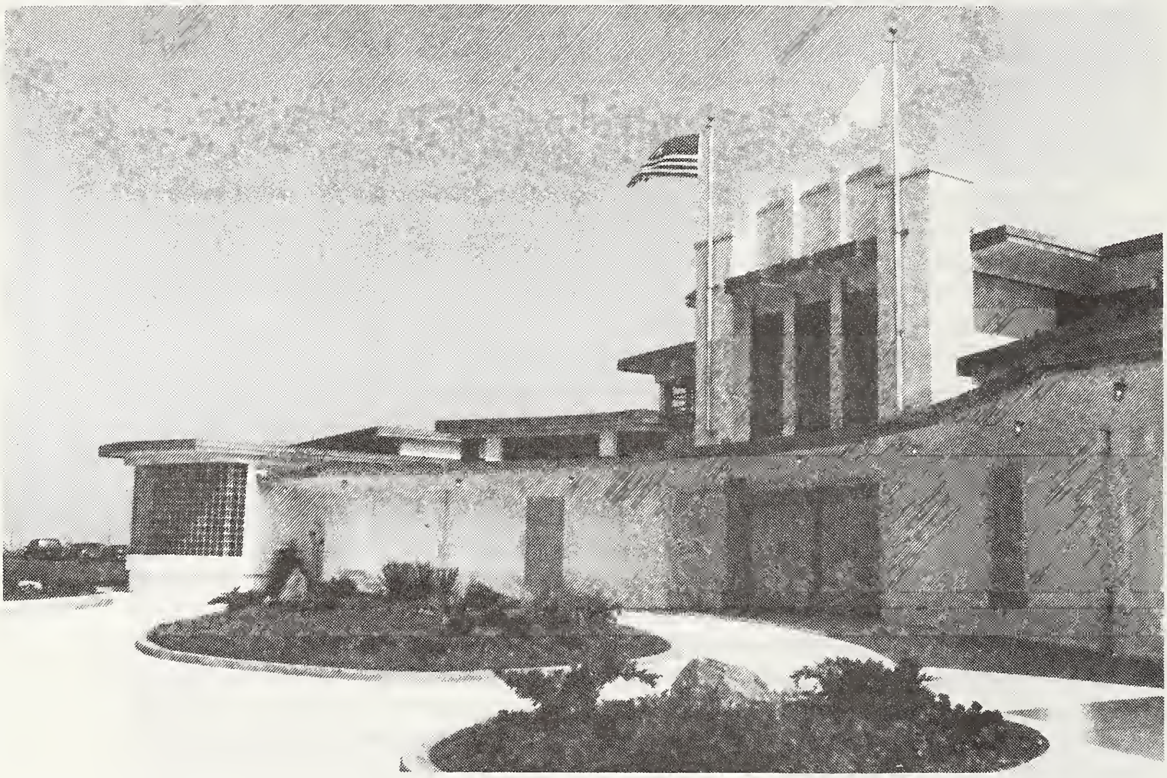
Open year-round, dawn to dusk. Lifeguards on duty from late June to early September

Nantasket Beach has been a popular summer destination for city dwellers since the middle of the 19th century. The reservation encompasses 26 acres along one and a third miles of oceanfront. The historic Carôusel evokes memories of the area's amusement park history. Band concerts and public dance lessons are popular summertime events.

Services and Facilities: Bathhouse, restrooms, showers

♿ Handicap access to the bathhouse and pathways

Directions: By Car: Take Rt. 3A south to Washington Boulevard, Hingham to Nantasket Avenue, Hull.



Mary Jeanette Murray Bathhouse on Nantasket Beach

Revere Beach Reservation

Revere Beach Boulevard, Revere (617) 727-8856

Open year round, dawn to dusk. Lifeguards are on duty from late June to early September.

Revere Beach, the oldest public beach in America, celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1996. Today, this beach boasts miles of shoreline which welcomes throngs of visitors every summer. Along the Boulevard there is a bandstand for summer concerts, a bathhouse and many shade shelters. Revere Beach is very accessible by public transportation which makes it a popular spot for people from all around the metropolitan Boston area.

♿ Handicap accessible restrooms and walkways.

Directions:

MBTA: Take the Blue Line to Revere Beach or Wonderland Stations. Cross the street to the beach. By Car: Route 1A North to Revere Beach Boulevard.

Rumney Marsh Reservation

Saugus, Revere (617) 727-5350
Open year-round, dawn to dusk

Rumney Marsh, a 600+ acre reservation, is located within the rich Saugus and Pines River estuary. This expansive saltmarsh provides habitat for an array of wildlife including migratory birds and marine life. The reservation also provides recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, walking, and bird watching. It is designated as an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern".

Free programs

Natural and cultural history walks relating to the area are offered.

Directions

MBTA: Take the MBTA Lynn/Salem bus to Rt. 107, Salem Turnpike and enter at the embankment.
By Car: Take the Callahan Tunnel to Rt. 1 North, continue through Bell Circle and at Brown Circle take a right onto Route 107 north, Salem Turnpike. At the Bristow Street lights make a u-turn reversing direction and continue for 1/2 mile to the embankment entrance on the right.

Stodder's Neck Reservation

Hingham, Weymouth (617) 727-5293
Open year-round, dawn to dusk.

A peninsula on the Hingham/Weymouth line at the mouth of the Back River, Stodder's Neck was once an unsightly gravel pit. Reclaimed and landscaped in a manner reminiscent of Frederick Law Olmsted's work at World's End, Stodder's Neck provides harborside walking trails and a hilltop view of the Back River.

Directions

By MBTA: Take MBTA Hingham Bus #220
By Car: From Boston take Rt. 3A south to Lincoln Street in Hingham.

Wollaston Beach Reservation

Quincy Shore Drive, Quincy (617) 727-5293
Open year round, dawn to dusk. Bathhouse open July to September

Wollaston Beach Reservation offers a variety of recreational opportunities. Quincy Shore Drive links Wollaston Beach with Caddy memorial Park and Moswetuset Hummock. The 2.3 mile beach is popular for its jogging/bicycling trail and swimming. Caddy Park on the southern end of the beach has over 15 acres of fields and marsh as well as a play area, lookout tower and picnic tables.

Moswetuset Hummock, on the beach's northern end, is a National Historic Site. Once a summer campsite of Native Americans during the 1600's, it is a mixture of woodland trails and open marshlands. The site which has a short loop trail, offers views of Quincy Bat and 144-acre Squantum Marsh.

Services and Facilities

Bathhouse, bicycling, fishing, hiking, observation tower, picnic, swimming, tot lot.
♿ Handicap accessible restrooms and walkways.

Directions

By MBTA: Caddy Park-Red Line to Wollaston Station, proceed to Hancock Street, turn right and walk one block to Beach Street, turn left on beach and continue on Quincy Shore Drive. Moswetuset Hummock-Red Line to North Quincy Station, MBTA Bus #211 to Squantum, exit at East Squantum Street and Quincy Shore Drive, proceed to the small wooded knoll 200 yards east.

WATERSHED REGION

The Metropolitan Watersheds are lands that contribute rainfall to the reservoirs. These watersheds are monitored to protect the reservoirs from over-development and to assure that the high quality of the water supplied to the distribution systems is maintained. The lands also provide the most extensive areas of woodland habitat in Massachusetts. The watersheds are habitat for wild turkeys, bald eagles, deer, coyote, and bear as well as ducks, songbirds and beaver.

MDC management goals stress water quality and water production consistent with sound resource protection. Fishing and controlled hunting are permitted during specific periods within posted limits. Fall foliage viewing, birding, snow shoeing and scenic drives attract thousands of visitors each year. Directions to each reservoir can be obtained by calling the district offices listed below.

Wachusett Reservoir

Clinton, Ma (508) 365-3272
Open year-round, dawn to dusk.
Fishing season, mid-April to mid-October (shore fishing onyl)

Wachusett Reservoir was constructed between 1898 and 1905 and together with the Quabbin Reservoir provides the water supply for over forty cities and towns within the Commonwealth. Comprised of 107 square miles of watershed lands, over 4,100 acres of water surface with a storage capacity of sixty-five billion gallons, its natural resources are vast and varied.

With thirty six miles of shoreline, the area's primary recreational advantage is shore fishing. Persons fifteen years of age or older possessing a valid Massachusetts fishing license, are allowed to fish at designated areas around the reservoir.

Sudbury Reservoir

Southborough, Ma
(508) 365-3272
Open year round, dawn to dusk.
Fishing season, mid-April to mid-October (shore fishing only).

Sudbury Reservoir is the water supply ready-reserve system. Constructed in the 1890's, it has served as a back-up supply for Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs for the past fifteen years. The reservoir holds 7.5 billion gallons of water and had thirty-eight miles of shoreline. Persons fifteen years of age or older, possessing a valid Massachusetts fishing license are allowed to fish at designated areas. A new public access and recreational management plan was for the Sudbury watershed area was adopted in 1993.

Quabbin Reservoir

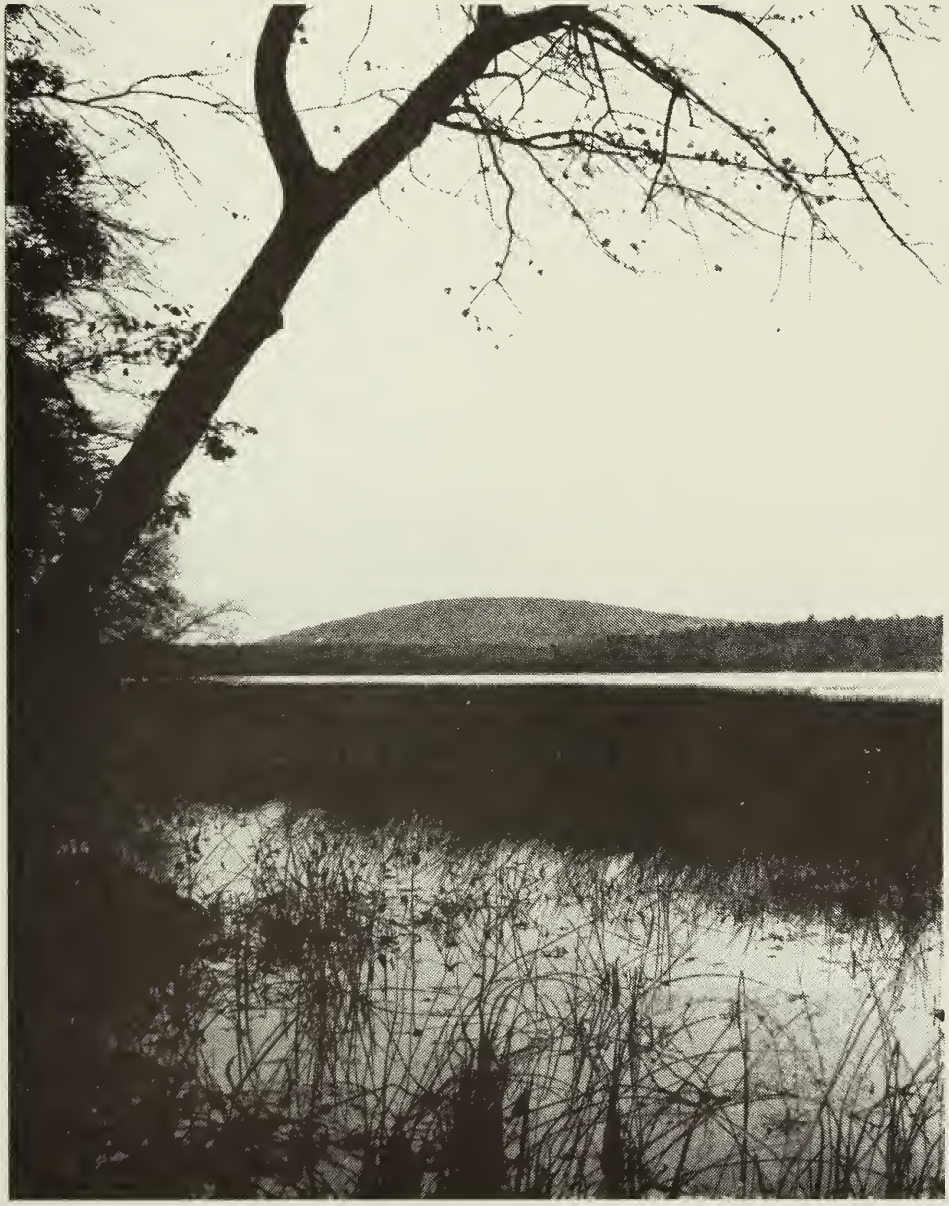
Belchertown, MA (413) 323-7221
Open year round, dawn to dusk.
Fishing season, mid-April to mid-October (shore fishing only).

Quabbin Reservoir is one of the largest man-made domestic water Reservoirs in the United States. Quabbin was created in the 1930's by the construction of two huge earth dams that contain the waters of the three branches of the Swift River. It remains a great engineering feat and one of the largest untreated water supplies in the world.

The Quabbin Reservoir water surface covers 39.4 square miles. The Reservoir is eighteen miles long, two miles wide and has 181 miles of shoreline. Fishing is a popular activity at the Reservoir. Quabbin's fishery is composed of both cold water and warm water species. Fishing licenses are required. Boat rentals and parking are available throughout the season.

Quabbin Reservoir's 96,000 acres of protected watershed is the largest open space in the state and provides excellent opportunities for wildlife sightings and studies.

The Quabbin Visitor Center at Winsor Dam in Belchertown is open year round with information regarding drinking water supplies, MDC watershed management programs, recreation and Quabbin history.



Quabbin Reservoir provides pure drinking water for over 2.5 million people.

Metropolitan District Commission
20 Somerset Street
Boston, MA 02108

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